

*Order
ackd. 13/8/57*

Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health



FOR THE YEAR
1956

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Medical Officer of Health:

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

THOMAS H. FARRELL, C.R.S.H., D.P.H.H. (Hons.)

Additional Public Health Inspector:

H. H. FORD, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Clerk to the Council:

S. E. WILKINSON

Chairman of Council:

G. E. A. RIDGWAY, J.P.

Highways Committee Chairman:

J. J. STALEY

Housing Committee Chairman:

W. J. C. BOWKER

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashby-de-la-Zouch
Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1956.

The population which appears to be steadily increasing was 6,700 compared with 6,610 in 1955.

The birth rate (14.0) is lower than last year (15.8) and less than that for England and Wales (15.7).

The death rate (9.5) is lower than last year (13.0), and lower than that for England and Wales (11.7).

The chief causes of death are from diseases associated with elderly people.

The scheme for the sewerage of New Packington has been completed.

89 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 451 houses completed in the post-war period.

The total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 436, and the number of applications received during the year 87.

With respect to general housing conditions the position is rapidly deteriorating due to the large proportion of old property in the area.

During the year 17 cases of Infectious diseases were notified, 11 Scarlet Fever and 6 Measles. The Scarlet Fever was mild.

I am pleased to report a welcome increase in the number of children receiving primary immunisation against diphtheria.

Two cases of Tuberculosis, both Pulmonary were notified during the year.

I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department of the County and to Dr. Mair and his staff in the Public Health Laboratory at Groby Road, Leicester, for their help and co-operation.

Finally, I must thank Mr. T. H. Farrell, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector and Mr. H. H. Ford, Additional Public Health Inspector, for their invaluable help during the year and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen for your kindness and courtesy.

I remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. McM. W. SEGERDAL, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

General Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	6,162 acres.
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	6,700
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,191
Rateable Value (at 31/12/56)	£83,071
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..	£305
Comparability factor—Births	0.99
Deaths	1.08

Ashby-de-la-Zouch is a market town, the chief industries of the District are:—Agriculture, Biscuit making, Dairies, Soap Manufacturing and Glove Manufacturing. A number of workers engaged in Coalmining, Earthenware and Brickmaking are residents in the town. There are also two Public Parks and an Open-air Swimming Bath, the Bath was not open in 1956. No industry was noted as having a specially injurious effect on the health of the population.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS:			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	49	42	91		
Illegitimate	2	2	4		
	—	—	—		
Total	51	44	95		
	==	==	==		

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	14.0
England and Wales Birth Rate per 1,000 population ..	15.7

STILL BIRTHS:			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	0	1		
Illegitimate	0	0	0		
	—	—	—		
Total	1	0	1		
	==	==	==		

Total Live and Stillbirths	96
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	10.3
England and Wales Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	23.0

DEATHS:	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
	34	25	59
	==	==	==
Death Rate per 1,000 population			9.5
England and Wales Death Rate per 1,000 population ..			11.7

Causes of Death in 1956

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus ..	1	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	4	6	10
Coronary disease, angina	5	3	8
Other heart disease	4	4	8
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4
Influenza	0	2	2
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Bronchitis	3	0	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	0	1
Congenital malformations	2	0	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	4	1	5
All other accidents	2	1	3
	—	—	—
Total	34	25	59
	==	==	==

Death Rate from Total Maternal Causes per 1,000 Live and Still Births—0. (England and Wales 0.56).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
Total	1	0	1
	==	==	==

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age—10.4 per 1,000 Live Births. (England and Wales—23.8 per 1,000 Live Births).

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:—	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	0	0	0
	==	==	==

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age: 0.
(England and Wales—17.3).

Chief Causes of Death in 1956:—

Diseases of Heart and Circulation	..	..	30
Malignant Neoplasm (all forms)	..	..	10

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

HOSPITALS

All hospitals are under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of a few private Maternity and Nursing Homes. The County Homes for aged and infirm people are under the County Council. When they become ill they are the responsibility of the Hospital Board.

The only hospital in the area is the Ashby-de-la-Zouch and District Hospital under the Leicester No. 2 Hospital Management Committee. The major part of the constructional work of the new Maternity Unit was carried out, and the Regional Hospital Board approved plans for the provision of an Out Patients' Department.

Average number of beds available throughout the year 1956	..	..	..	..	..	21.07
Average number of beds occupied throughout the year 1956	..	..	..	..	..	15.67
Inpatients, Medical, Surgical and Gynaecological						443
Maternity	..	..	..	..	..	211
Total	..	..	..	..	..	650
Outpatient attendances	..	..	..	..	..	3,883
Operations	..	..	..	..	..	389
Births	..	..	..	..	..	192
Stillbirths	..	..	..	..	..	1

The hospital would welcome young girls about 18 years of age to train as state enrolled student nurses.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

Infant Welfare Clinics are held every Thursday afternoon at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby. An Ante-natal Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville, and the Tuberculosis Clinic at Markfield Sanatorium. The Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The County Council is responsible for all ambulance facilities in the County. Colliery accidents are removed by Ambulances provided by the National Coal Board stationed at Nailstone Colliery and Moira Colliery.

NURSING IN THE HOME

All District Nursing and Midwifery in the home is under the County Council. A Diabetic Health Visitor attends the Clinic at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, and visits the patients in their homes.

HEALTH VISITING

This work is provided, as before, by the County Council, and is ably carried out in the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

**The Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital,
Groby Road, Leicester**

The examinations performed on behalf of the District in the County Laboratory are as follows:—

Throat and Nose Swabs	..	..	..	1
Faeces and Urine	..	..	..	26
Sputa	..	..	..	68
Milk	..	..	..	2
Water	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	..	101

Generally there is co-operation between the local authority and the services provided by the Executive Council and the Hospital Board, and the tendency is towards closer integration.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

The water is supplied by the Ashby and Swadlincote Joint Water Board and is satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Particulars of Water Supply to Dwelling Houses in the District:—

Internal Mains Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 2,122. Estimated Population, 6,334.

Mains Water from External Standpipes—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 63. Estimated Population, 252.

Well Water Supply—

No. of Dwelling Houses, 6. Estimated Population, 24.

Apart from a few isolated dwellings, the whole of the urban area is supplied with water from the public mains.

Number of cases in which Pipe supply was substituted for Well Water—3.

No wells were closed or cleansed, and no samples of well water taken for analysis.

Sewage Disposal

Number of cesspools constructed during the year—Nil.

Number of cesspools abolished during the year—1.

Total number of cesspools in District on 31st December, 1956—
47 (estimated).

The New Packington sewerage scheme has now been completed which means that virtually the whole district is now sewered.

Closet Accommodation

Total number in District on 31st December, 1956 (Estimated)—

(a) Privies	..	..	..	..	..	33
(b) Pail closets	..	..	..	..	..	24
(c) Water closets	..	..	..	..	..	2,134

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during the year:—

(a) Privies	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Pail closets	..	..	..	..	..	1

No grant is made towards the cost of conversion.

Number of privies (middens) converted to pail closets during the year: Nil.

Earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools are cleansed by Council workmen, and disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

Pail closets are emptied weekly, and contents disposed of in the same way.

Public Cleansing

Domestic refuse is removed weekly by direct labour over the whole area by one Dennis refuse vehicle, and the contents disposed of to two controlled tips.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

(a) Total number of complaints received	..	..	701
(b) Total number of premises at which defects or nuisances were dealt with	..	..	625
(c) Total number of defects or nuisances dealt with	..	..	924

Particulars of Inspections Made

Animal Keeping	7
Bakehouses	8
Dairies	30
Drainage Works	200
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	613
Food Premises	183
Offensive Trades	1
Refuse Collection and Disposal	104
Rodent Control	148
Schools	4
Shops	42
Slaughter-houses	362
Smoke Observations	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	10
Verminous and Dirty Premises	7
Water Supplies	38
Workshops, outworkers, etc.	76
Other Inspections	41
Total	<u>1,878</u>

Notices

Preliminary Notices

	<i>Housing</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1956	14	19
Issued during year	29	33
Complied with during year	38	43
Statutory action necessary	0	0
Outstanding 31st December, 1956	5	9

Statutory Notices

Statutory Notices, 1. Summary action, 1.

Shops

Particulars of action taken during the year under the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950.

	<i>Outstanding 1st Jan., 1956</i>	<i>Defects found</i>	<i>Defects remedied</i>	<i>Outstanding 31st Dec., 1956</i>
Sanitary				
Conveniences	3	2	4	1
Temperature	0	0	0	0
Ventilation	0	1	1	0
Washing Facilities	0	2	2	0
Lighting	0	1	1	0
Facilities for taking Meals	0	0	0	0

Regulated Buildings

<i>Class of Building</i>	<i>No. in District</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>General Conditions</i>
Tents, Vans,				
Sheds, etc.	4	10	0	satisfactory
Offensive Trades	1	1	0	satisfactory

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No action necessary.

The Pet Animal Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Rag Flock and other Filling Material Act, 1951

No premises in the area.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Inspection of district, including baiting of public sewers. Treatment of infested premises. One part-time Rodent Operator.

Schools

No action taken.

Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public

No. in Area:—

(a) Publicly owned	..	..	..	..	1
(b) Privately owned	..	..	..	..	0
No. of Inspections	..	..	..	..	0

The Swimming Bath was not opened during 1956.

SECTION D

Housing

Houses completed during the year

	<i>Prefab. Per- manent Type</i>	<i>Per- manent Type</i>	<i>Aver. Cost inclusive or per House exclusive of Aver. Rent Rates</i>
Local Authority	Nil	35	£1,600 33/6 inclusive
By Private Enterprise	Nil	54	£2,300 All Owner occupiers

Houses in course of erection at end of year:

By Local Authority	Nil	85
By Private Enterprise	Nil	20

Total number of Post-War Houses completed

By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	295
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	156

Applications for Council Houses

Total number at end of year	436
Applications received during the year	87
Number of Council houses in the district prior to the War (1939)	163

Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding:—

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ..	Nil
Number of families dwelling therein	Nil
Number of persons dwelling therein	Nil
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	Nil
Number of persons concerned in such cases ..	Nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

The position with respect to general house conditions is rapidly deteriorating due to large proportion of old property in the district.

Housing Summary

Total number of houses occupied in District ..	2,191
Total number of Council Houses occupied in District	458

Housing Act, 1949

Number of Applications for reconditioning grants	4
Number of Applications approved	4
Number of Applications refused	Nil

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Ice Cream

Number of Premises registered:—

(a) Manufacture and retail	0
(b) Manufacture only	0
(c) Retail only	21
Number of Samples taken	0

All premises retail prepacked only.

Milk Supply

Dairies (other than Dairy Farms) and Distributors (Section 8
Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949):—

Number on Register—Dairies	3
Distributors	11
Number of Inspections made	30
Number of contraventions outstanding from pre- vious year	0
Number of contraventions found during year ..	1
Number of contraventions remedied during year ..	1
Number of contraventions outstanding on 31st Dec., 1955	0

Bacteriological Milk Samples:—

None taken by Urban District Council.

12 samples were taken by the County Council.

All satisfactory

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Particulars of Licences issued:—

Dealers Licences—Pasteurised	..	..	3
Sterilised	..	..	1
Supplementary Licences—Pasteurised	..	..	3
Sterilised	..	..	Nil

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Particulars of Licences issued:—

Dealers' Licences..	..	..	..	3
Supplementary Licences	..	..	..	3

Meat and Other Foods

No. of Slaughter Houses in Area	..	..	..	2
No. of Animals slaughtered elsewhere	..	..	..	Nil
No. of Animals examined elsewhere	..	..	..	Nil
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	..	..	..	3,871
No. of Knackers Yards in Area	..	..	..	Nil
No. of visits to Knackers Yards	..	..	..	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION**Carcases Inspected and Condemned**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	803	144	37	1679	1208
Number inspected	803	144	37	1679	1208
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcase condemned	0	0	1	3	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was con- demned	180	38	0	145	50
Percentage of number other than Tuberculosis	22%	26%	3%	9%	4%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcase condemned	3	1	1	0	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	150	50	0	0	30
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	10%	35%	3%	0%	2%

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

1. Number of premises inspected 27
 Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 48
 Number of informal notices served 7
 Number of informal notices complied with .. 6
 Number of informal notices outstanding, Dec. 31st 1
 Number of formal notices served 0
2. No summary action taken.
3. No special steps, e.g., meetings, lectures, etc., taken.
4. There is only one local authority owned market in the district, which does not comply with the Regulations, and the stalls are to be modernised as soon as possible.

Meat Shops, Meat Stores, etc.	6
Number of Inspections	72

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale	
Number of Inspections	39

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1956

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Final numbers after correction</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	11	0
Measles	6	0
Pneumonia	0	1
	—	—
	17	1
	==	==

Analysis Under Age Groups according to Registrar General's Return 118d

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Measles</i>
Under 1 year	0	0
1—2	0	0
3—4	2	1
5—9	7	5
10—14	1	0
15—24	1	0
25 and over	0	0
	—	—
Total	11	6
	==	==

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Number of children who were immunised during the period
1st January—31st December, 1956

Age at 31/12/56 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1956	1 1955	2 1954	3 1953	4 1952	5 1951	6 1950	7 1949	8 1948	9 1947	Total
Primary Immunisation	6	66	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	80
Booster Dose	0	0	0	0	4	32	15	1	0	1	53

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Tuberculosis Register for the year 1956

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
No. of cases on the Register at the commencement of year	13	10	4	1	28
No. of cases notified during the year	2	0	0	0	2
No. of cases added other than by formal notification	1	0	0	0	1
No. of cases removed from the Register	1	1	1	0	3
No. of cases remaining on the Register at end of year	15	9	3	1	28

Causes of Removal

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Left District	1	1	0	1	3

There is free co-operation between the Local Authority and the Chest Physician, and every assistance is given in the ascertainment of contacts, rehousing and employment. A special clinic for contacts has been working very satisfactorily, and general practitioners have availed themselves fully of X-ray facilities.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Resumé of Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1956, previously sent to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service Headquarters, Orphanage Road, Watford, Herts.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	10	2
Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	59	1
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	8	30	4
Total	45	99	7

2.—Cases in which defects were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions, they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):—		
(a) Unsuitable or defective	1	3
(b) Not separate for sexes	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	3	3
Total	4	6

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>No. of Outworkers in August List required by Sec. 110</i>
Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets	1

